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Eminem Collaborator Talks About 'Relapse'

Dawaun Parker has been Dr. Dre's right-hand man for years.
By Jayson Rodriguez
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May 27, 2009 / 6:58 PM
When upstart producer Dawaun Parker got word that the recording of Eminem's [article id="1611528"]*Relapse*[/article] was moving to Orlando, Florida, the New England native knew exactly what it meant.

"With [artist id="502642"]Em[/artist], I been around for a little bit, so I knew what to expect on a certain level and knew the amount of focus and attention it would require," Parker told MTV News, "and knowing personally what I felt what the stakes were, with him wanting to come back and all of that. None of that was verbalized or indicated to me, [as in] you need to step it up. But that's what I analyzed from that."

Parker definitely stepped it up. He ended up playing keyboards on every track on *Relapse* -- which debuted at [article id="1612196"]#1 on the *Billboard* albums chart[/article] -- except for "We Made You" and [article id="1611174"]"Beautiful."[/article]

The Berklee College of Music alum also scored a co-production credit with Dr. Dre on *Relapse*'s

[article id="1610536"]"Same Song & Dance."[/article]

Parker, who has worked with Dr. Dre on records by Jay-Z, Busta Rhymes and T.I., said he landed even more work on the album's sequel, due out later this year. But he was hush-hush when pressed for details.

"People are wondering if it's a continuation or a whole other thing," Parker said about *Relapse 2.* "It remains to be seen," he added with a laugh.

However, in a previous interview on his own Shade 45 radio station, Eminem revealed that the [article id="1609937"] album is almost done.[/article] It's just one of a number of albums Dr. Dre's production team is looking to wrap by year's end.

Parker, 26 -- who has been working with Dre for five years, ever since finishing school -- said the Shady/Aftermath camp is currently finalizing 50 Cent's album, [article id="1610599"]*Before I Self-Destruct.*[/article] He notched another co-production credit with 50's latest single, [article id="1611716"]"OK, You're Right,"[/article] which hit the Internet last week. And Parker is continuing to learn from Dre in hopes of following in the footsteps of other musicians mentored under the Doctor who went on to great individual success, like [article id="1609984"]Scott Storch[/article] and Mike Elizondo.

"Right now I'm just being as instrumental in creating music that the Doc is in love with," Parker explained. "And myself, as producer, to keep growing and elevating my game. I wanna work with Dre as long as I can help contribute to whatever he's working on. It's a credit to how much I learned from him to eventually want to go and build my own situation into other genres."

Parker said he eventually hopes to score films and release his own material, a la Dre's *The Chronic,* where he'll handle the bulk of the production and rhyme as well.